

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07031 080128Z

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TAGS: PFOR PORG OAS CU US

SUBJ: CUBAN OFFICIAL GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON END OF OAS SANCTIONS,
RELATIONS WITH US AND SELA

1. CUBA'S MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE, DR. MARCELO FERNANDEZ FONT, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY ON AUGUST 6 EN ROUTE FROM THE SELA MEETING IN PANAMA TO CUBA.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE RESULTS OF THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE, DR. FERNANDEZ IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "CUBA IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE LIFTED THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND BLOCKADE TO WHICH IT (CUBA) WAS SUBJECT FOR TEN YEARS SIMPLY BECAUSE CUBA DOES NOT BELONG TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES." HOWEVER, HE ADDED "NOW NATIONS FRIENDLY TO CUBA WILL BE ABLE TO RESUME THE COMMERCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHICH WERE BROKEN BY THE OAS REQUIREMENT."

3. IN ADDITION, FERNANDEZ STATED "AS OF THIS MOMENT, NO ONE HAS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL OR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES". "DESPITE WHAT IS SAID," HE ADDED, "THE US CONTINUES TO INTERVENE IN CUBAN AFFAIRS SINCE VARIOUS MERCHANT SHIPS HAVE STOPPED VISITING CUBA BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THAT COUNTRY (I.E., THE US) THEN PURPOSELY
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07031 080128Z

PLACES THEM ON A BLACK LIST."

4. THE CUBAN MINISTER SAID THAT SELA "WILL BRING GREAT
BENEFITS TO LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE ITS ESSENCE AND SPIRIT
ARE GENUINELY LATIN AMERICAN."
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